

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OPR-02 AID-05
MCT-02 SY-05 USSS-00 EUR-12 TRSE-00 /090 W
-----121083 072250Z /61

R 071203Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9682
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7454

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS, IR
SUBJ: WEEKEND RELATIVELY QUIET, ANTI-AMERICANISM APPEARS
INCREASING

REF: TEHRAN 7559 NOTAL

SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS IN ISFAHAN, TEHRAN QUIET, QOM
SCENE OF DISTRUBANCES. ANTI-AMERICAN STRAIN DEVELOPING IN
OPPOSITION STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO ISFAHAN INCIDENTS NOTED REFTTEL, PERSONAL
VEHICLE OF HARZA COMPANY EMPLOYEE WAS DESTROYED BY FIREBOMB
AUG. 3 IN ISFAHAN. ON AUG. 6, TWO MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE
THROWN AGAINST ONE BUILDING OF ISFAHAN AMERICAN SCHOOL, BUT
SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION TENDSTO INDICATE BOMBS THROWN BY
TWO AMERICAN YOUTHS. INVESTIATION CONTINUING.

2. PAST WEEKEND WAS GENERALLY QUIET IN IRAN, AS COUNTRY
BEGAN RAMAZAN. NO DISTURBANCES WERE NOTED IN TEHRAN.
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EXCEPT FOR ISFAHAN AND QOM, PROVINCIAL TOWNS, INCLUDING
MASHAD, WERE QUIET. SHIRAZ REPORTED POLICE GUARD AROUND
MOSQUE AUG 4, BUT NO DISTURBANCES. ISRAELI DIPLOMAT
TRAVELING IN KURDESTAN AND AZARBAIJAN REPORTS ALL QUIET
THERE, BUT TENSE, WITH MINORITY RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
FEELING ISLAMIC PRESSURE.

3. SOURCE WHO WAS IN QOM FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY SAYS THERE WAS DEMONSTRATION AUG. 4 LATER ACCOMPANIED BY POLICE FIRING. AUG. 5 WAS QUIET, BUT THERE WAS RELIGIOUS MOURNING SERVICE IN HONOR OF CONSTITUTION DAY. THIS WAS FOLLOWED AUG. 6 BY RENEWED DEMONSTRATIONS AND MORE POLICE FIRING. SOURCE SAID FIRING WAS SPORADIC AND THERE WAS NO TALK OF CASUALTIES OTHER THAN A FEW INJURED.

4. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE WHO HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MULLAHS AND OPPOSITION LEADERS OVER PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS TOLD POLOFF THAT NUMBER OF OPPOSITION FIGURES TAKING MORE ANTI-AMERICAN LINE THAN PREVIOUSLY. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ISFAHAN MULLAHS, LED BY AYATOLLAH KHADEMI, HAVE BEEN PUTTING FORTH LINE THAT AMERICANS ARE CHIEF SUPPORTERS OF SHAH, PRINCIPAL EXPLOITERS OF IRAN'S WEALTH, AN ELITE GROUP OF FOREIGNERS WITH SPECIAL PRIVILEGE, AND THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF TENSION BETWEEN THE USSR AND IRAN. THIS THEME WAS PARTICULARLY PREVALENT IN ISFAHAN WEEKEND JULY 28-29.

5. SOME UNION OF NATIONAL FRONT LEADERS HAVE BEEN MAKING POINT PRIVATELY TO DIFFERENT GROUPS THAT AMERICANS HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONDING FAST ENOUGH TO IRAN'S POLITICAL NEEDS AND HAVE NOT BEEN PUTTING ENOUGH PRESSURE ON SHAH. MAJLES DEPUTY BANI-AHMAD SAID SAME THING ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO IN SPEECH TO TABRIZ GROUP. (COMMENT: THIS LINE MAY
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CHANGE IN VIEW OF SHAH'S AUG 5 CONSTITUTION DAY SPEECH OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.).

6. INCREASING ANTI-U.S. TENOR OF OPPOSITION STATEMENTS HAS NOT YET SURFACED PUBLICLY AND MAY NOT BECOME REGULAR PART OF OPPOSITION LITANY. MOST DISSIDENTS STILL COUNT ON U.S. GOOD WILL, BUT PARADOXICALLY, GOI LIBERALIZATION MEASURES SEEM TO INCREASE INTERNAL TENSIONS WITHIN OPPOSITION GROUPS AND THIS, PLUS INEVITABLE PERSONAL JOCKEYING FOR POSITION, HAS PRODUCED PRESENT ANTI-U.S. TONE. ONE SOURCE BELIEVES KHOMEINI GROUP IS DELIBERATELY SPREADING ANTI-US LINE BECAUSE OF ITS BASIC IDEOLOGICAL STANCE AND ITS DESIRE TO TRY AND CUT SUPPORT AWAY FROM MORE MODERATE LEADER, AYATOLLAH SHARIATMADARI.
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